

Chief's Update August 26, 2011

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

On behalf of Tim and Autumn Barber, Tim's parents and entire family, THANK YOU for your unwavering support and generosity, given unhesitatingly since Tim was first diagnosed with cancer, and overwhelmingly demonstrated yesterday at the Apache Substation BBQ fundraiser.

For those of you who were working or had prior commitments and were unable to attend, it is no overstatement to say that the event was successful beyond even our wildest hopes. Members of our community, law enforcement from across the City, State, County and Federal levels, brothers and sisters from the Fire Department, elected and school officials, and faith groups attended – from morning until evening the crowds never dissipated. Retired Chief of Police - Ralph Tranter also attended to show his support for Tim.

This event was conceived by Tim's close friends, Sgt. Jon King and Sgt. Dan Peckham. Jon and Dan, thank you for your hard work and support in planning and organizing this event. A very special thank you goes to TOA President Sgt. Jeff McHenry and Tim's colleagues in CIB, whose teamwork and generosity as a group in support of Tim is unmatched. I also want to single out Sgt. Dan Masters, who truly was (as he has so often been) the driving force in making this event such a fantastic success. Thank you Dan!

Tim and his family were overwhelmed at the generosity, love, kindness and support that showered him in his time of need. It is times like this which makes us realize what is always most important in life - health, safety, friends and family. It is during these most difficult times that our brothers and sisters can pick us up and carry us through – both on the job and off. Yesterday was no exception - as the Tempe Police family was there in force to carry Tim, Autumn and family.

In my 32 years as a Tempe Police Officer, I have never seen such an outpouring of support by the media. Members of the media transcended reporting on a community story about a police officer, and getting Tim's message out about early testing for prostate cancer. They connected to Tim Barber, the man we all have the privilege of working with every day. A special heartfelt thank you to News 12 Anchor/Reporter Tram Mai and camera-man Pete, as they attended the entire fundraising event making numerous live reports throughout the day and evening.

Tim is an inspiration to all of us, not by his struggle with cancer, but because of his character, leadership, kindness, strength, perseverance, humor, and courage. What we are witnessing goes beyond a kind and giving community. It is a reflection of who you are day in and day out, on the job, in the community and at home. This outpouring of love and support for Tim and his family is a reflection of you - I am honored and proud to serve as your Chief.

Please keep Tim, Autumn and all his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely, Tom